

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02573 221240Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 HEW-04  
/075 W

-----230219Z 065769 /63

R 221150Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2774  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2573

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, ELAB, SY  
SUBJECT: SYRIAN TEACHERS THREATEN STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES

APRIL 21 PRESS REPORTED SARG HAD ISSUED DECREE REVISING  
PAY OF TEACHERS AND CUSTODIAL WORKERS AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS BY  
UP TO S.L. 100 (\$25.64) PER MONTH. RELIABLE LOCAL SOURCE,  
WHO TEACHES AT GOVERNMENT SCHOOL, REMARKED TO US THAT THIS  
DECISION WOULD ONLY AFFECT MINIMAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS BECAUSE  
MOST WORK AT GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS. THESE TEACHERS, HE ASSERTED  
HAD BEEN EXPECTING RAISES IN THEIR ALLOWANCES FOR SOME TIME  
BUT SARG HAD INSUFFICIENT FUNDS TO GRANT INCREASES. HE  
SAID THAT FEW WEEKS AGO DELEGATION FROM TEACHERS SYNDICATE  
MET WITH BAATH PARTY LEADERS TO PRESS THEIR DEMAND FOR ADDED  
REMUNERATION. BP REGIONAL COMMAND DEPSECGEN MUHAMMAD JABIR  
BAJBUJ TURNED THEM DOWN ON GROUNDS THAT SARG WAS BROKE.  
ACCORDING TO SOURCE, SYNDICATE LEADER FAYIZ NASIR SUBSEQUENTLY  
WANRED PRES. ASAD THAT HE COULD NO LONGER BE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR CONTROLLING HIS SYNDICATE.

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2. SOURCE CONTINUED THAT SHORTLY BEFORE APRIL 7  
ANNIVERSARY OF BAATH PARTY, TEACHERS SYNIDICATE BRANCH IN  
HOMS CABLED ASAD TO DEMAND HIGHER SALARY AND THREATENED  
TO STRIKE IF THEIR DEMANDS NOT MET. SOURCE SAID THAT TEACHERS  
AT SCHOOL WHERE HE WORKS ALSO SENT SIGNED CABLE TO PRES.  
WITH SAME DEMAND BUT WITHOUT THREAT CONTAINED IN HIS MESSAGE.  
HIS COLEAGUE WERE ANNOYED WHEN APRIL 7 PRESS REPORTED

CABLE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO ASAD AND BAATH COMMANDS FROM NASIR. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, NASIR (WHO WAS SELECTED FOR HIS POSITION BY REGIME) WAS NOT REFLECTING SENTIMENTS OF SYNDICATE.

3. SOURCE SAID MANY TEACHERS HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO SIGNAL THEIR DISCONTENT. HOWEVER, MINISTER HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT WHAT SOURCE CLAIMED WERE SEVERAL THOUSAND RESIGNATIONS.

4. COMMENT: IT IS RELATIVELY EASY MEASURE FOR SARG TO DECREE INCREASED BENEFITS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL EMPLOYEES BECAUSE GOVERNMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING FUNDS TO PAY TEACHERS. UNLESS THIS MEASURE IS RELATIVELY QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY SIMILAR INCREASES FOR GOVERNMENT TEACHERS, HOWEVER, DISSATISFACTION AMONG MEMBERS OF TEACHERS SYNDICATE IS LIKELY TO SPREAD.  
PELLETREAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WAGES, THREATS, TEACHERS, LABOR STRIKES  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** SYRIAN TEACHERS THREATEN STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES APRIL 21 PRESS REPORTED SARG HAD ISSUED DECREE REVISING PAY OF TEACHERS AND CUSTODIAL WORKERS AT PRIVATE S  
**TAGS:** PINS, ELAB, SY  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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